

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAGS, EO AND SUBJ)

USOECD

FOR EUR

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AMGT PFOR XX

SUBJ: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN OECD

REF: A 77 STATE 296053, B 77 STATE 295533, C 77 STATE
291277

1. SUMMARY: CONTINUING RECESSION AND PERSISTENT HIGH
UNEMPLOYMENT, RISING PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES AND
STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS AND THE NEED TO CONTINUE
TO WORK TOGETHER ON REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL
AND ON COMMON APPROACHES TOWARDS THE LDC'S HAVE BEEN
THE MAJOR ISSUES OF THIS OECD WORK-YEAR. AMONG THE
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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION IN HELPING ITS
MEMBERS RESPOND TO THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN: THE
ECONOMIC GROWTH TARGETING EXERCISE AND THE SUBSEQUENT
ELABORATION OF A COORDINATED BUT DIFFERENTIATED RECOVERY
STRATEGY; ADOPTING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL A QUANTITATIVE
GLOBAL TARGET FOR REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL
AND SETTING UP MACHINERY TO MONITOR IT; HELPING MANAGE

THE STEEL CRISIS BY AGREEING TO PRINCIPLES OF BEHAVIOR AND A MONITORING EXERCISE; CALLING ATTENTION TO AND BEGINNING A STUDY OF THE PROBLEM OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT; AND PROVIDING A FORUM FOR WORKING OUT DC POSITIONS ON DEBT, COMMON FUND, THE NORTH/SOUTH OVERVIEW MECHANISM AND MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS IN DEVELOPMENT AID.

2. OUR FUTURE WORK PRIORITIES WILL BE SET BY THE JUNE MINISTERIAL MEETING WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE ATTENDED BY SECRETARIES VANCE AND BLUMENTHAL. THE KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THAT MEETING WHICH MAY MATERIALLY ASSIST IN PREPARATION FOR THE SUMMIT TO FOLLOW ARE:

- ENDORSEMENT OF THE COORDINATED BUT DIFFERENTIATED RECOVERY PROGRAM;

- RENEWAL OF THE TRADE PLEDGE;

- AIRING THE PROBLEMS OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT FACED BY NATIONAL ECONOMIES AND THE HARM BEING DONE BY INCREASING GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS;

- URGING CONTINUING ACTION TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE CONCERTED ENERGY INVESTMENT PROGRAM; AND

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- ASKING THE ORGANIZATION TO DEVELOP A LONGER TERM APPROACH TO NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS INCLUDING AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO MANAGE THE VULNERABILITIES OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

3. IN THE AREA OF OECD STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS, THE ORGANIZATION DEVELOPED A NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE FORMAT FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS, INCREASED UTILIZATION OF RESTRICTED GROUPS OF POLICY MAKERS FROM THE MAJOR COUNTRIES, AND ADOPTED AN OECD WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET WHICH COVERS ALL U.S. PRIORITY ACTIVITIES WITH NEGLIGIBLE REAL GROWTH OF THE BUDGET. FOR THE FUTURE WE THINK THAT, IN ADDITION TO ENCOURAGING SECRETARIAL CONTACTS WITH THE ADVANCED LDC'S, OPEC AND CEMA COUNTRIES, AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ENGAGE CERTAIN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES IN SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST WITHOUT IMPAIRING THE USEFULNESS OF THIS FORUM OF LIKE-MINDED INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES.

END SUMMARY.

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OECD

I. MAJOR ISSUES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4. WE CANNOT REPORT THAT WE IN PARIS HAVE SOLVED THE
SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACING THE
INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES TODAY. OUR OWN GOALS AND
OBJECTIVES AS SETFORTH IN STATE 295533 (1977) ARE MORE
MODEST. BUT THANKS TO THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF
WASHINGTON AND PARIS, OECD SINCE THE SUMMER HAS REGIS-
TERED SOME SUCCESS IN ADDRESSING THE NEW POLICY ISSUES
OF THE DAY.

ECONOMIC POLICY

5. GIVEN THE CONTINUING RECESSION AND DEEPENING
UNEMPLOYMENT, THE SUBMISSION AND MONITORING OF
COUNTRIES' GROWTH TARGETS BY THE OECD PROVIDE A FACTUAL
FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS AND POLICY DISCUSSIONS OF COHERENT
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MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIES. WITH CHARLES SCHULTZE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EPC AND CAREFUL SECRETARIAT STAFF WORK, WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS A CONSENSUS ON A COORDINATED BUT DIFFERENTIATED RECOVERY PROGRAM IN THE OECD AREA.

6. THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION MAKES THE FIGHT AGAINST PROTECTIONISM A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF POLICY. THE OECD TRADE PLEDGE, RENEWED AT LAST JUNE'S MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR THE THIRD TIME, HAS STOOD UP QUITE WELL. IN ADDITION, THE DEPTH, COMPLEXITY, AND DURATION OF THIS RECESSION HAVE REQUIRED THE OECD TO DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION TO MICRO ORIENTED POLICY ISSUES. IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS THE ORGANIZATION HAS:

- HELD A SUCCESSFUL HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CHAIRED BY U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR RAY MARSHALL AND INTENSIFIED ITS EFFORTS ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

- ARRANGED FOR A WASHINGTON CONFERENCE IN JULY ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND GOVERNMENTAL ECONOMIC POLICIES.

- INTENSIFIED ITS WORK ON THE INVESTMENT ASPECTS OF GROWTH.

- BEGAN A MAJOR STUDY OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT ISSUES, INCLUDING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE ECONOMY AIMED AT PROPPING UP SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES, REGIONS, AND LABOR MARKETS, AND THE ROLE OF EMERGING INDUSTRIAL POWERS IN CHANGING PATTERNS OF WORLD

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TRADE AND PRODUCTION.

- SET UP AN AD HOC OECD GROUP ON STEEL, WORKING IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH A U.S./EC/JAPAN TRI-LATERAL, WHICH ENUMERATED PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE NATIONAL ACTION AND A MONITORING SYSTEM TO KEEP TRACK OF DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING SUPPLY AND DEMAND PROSPECTS.

- NEGOTIATED A NEW EXPORT CREDIT ARRANGEMENT, WHICH WHILE FAILING TO TIGHTEN CREDIT TERMS, DOES PROVIDE IMPROVED PROCEDURES, GREATER PRECISION, AND INCREASED TRANSPARENCY.

-- PREPARED GROUNDWORK FOR A REALISTIC REVIEW OF
THE 1976 OECD INVESTMENT UNDERSTANDINGS,
INCLUDING NEW U.S. INITIATIVES ON NATIONAL
TREATMENT ISSUES AND INVESTMENT INCENTIVES
AND DISINCENTIVES.

ENERGY

7. CULMINATING THE PREVIOUS WORK OF THE IEA AND
DETERMINING ITS FUTURE WORK PROGRAM WAS THE IEA MINIS-
TERIAL MEETING ATTENDED BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WHICH
AGREED TO A COMMON TARGET FOR OIL IMPORT RESTRAINT AND
SET UP A REVIEW PROCEDURE TO MONITOR PROGRESS TOWARD ITS
ATTAINMENT.

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NORTH/SOUTH

8. FOLLOWING THE CIEC CONCLUSION IN JUNE, THE OECD
CONTINUED TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR WORKING OUT CONCERTED
DC POSITIONS ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES, NOTABLY ON DEBT
AND THE COMMON FUND AND ON THE UN OVERVIEW MECHANISM.

THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE ELABORATED AND AGREED TO THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

EAST-WEST

9. KEY ISSUES IN A NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL AREAS WERE CLARIFIED IN 1977, BUT WORK ON DEBT AND AGRICULTURE HAS LAGGED. THE STAGE IS SET FOR AN EFFORT TO GET A COMMON ASSESSMENT AMONG MAJOR WESTERN COUNTRIES OF THE MEDIUM-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS IN THE EAST, AND THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKELY IMPACT ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS -- MOST FEASIBLY IN A RESTRICTED INFORMAL GROUP.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

10. IN ADDITION THE OECD CONTINUED TO REGISTER SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS SUCH AS ENERGY R & D, TOXIC SUBSTANCES, TRANSNATIONAL DATA FLOWS, THE OECD INVESTMENT PACKAGE, AGRICULTURE, AND EDUCATION. SPACE DOES NOT PERMIT ELABORATION ON THESE ISSUES IN THIS MESSAGE.

II. PRIORITIES FOR COMING MONTHS

11. THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR ON JUNE 14 AND 15 AND WE UNDERSTAND IT WILL BE ATTENDED BY SECRETARIES VANCE AND BLUMENTHAL. THE MINISTERIAL WILL:

-- EXAMINE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THEIR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBERS,

-- REVIEW THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION AS SET FORTH ABOVE AND SET THE PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING OECD WORK YEAR.

THE MISSION'S PRIORITIES IN ITS OWN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING OECD WORK YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER AND BEYOND ARE REFLECTED IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE MINISTERIAL.

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12. MORE IMPORTANT, THE PROPOSED JULY SUMMIT COMING A MONTH LATER WILL ADDRESS MOST OF THE SAME PROBLEMS SEEKING TO PROVIDE THE POLITICAL IMPETUS REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFULLY WORKING ON THESE PROBLEMS. AS IN THE PAST, THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AND SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS WHICH PRECEDE IT CAN BE USEFUL IN PREPARING FOR THE SUMMIT BY DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON THE ISSUES AND PREPARING IMPORTANT PAPERS. THE OECD CAN ALSO BE USEFUL IN FOLLOWING UP IN A BROADER CONTEXT ON SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE SUMMIT.

13. AS WE SEE IT, AFTER PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WITH OECD SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LENNEP, THE JUNE MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD:

(A) IN THE MACRO-ECONOMIC AREA

-- IN THE LIGHT OF THE SECRETARIAT'S SPRING ASSESSMENT, ENDORSE THE STRATEGY CURRENTLY BEING WORKED ON IN THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING PARTIES OF COORDINATED BUT DIFFERENTIATED NATIONAL GROWTH POLICIES TAILORED TO MEET EACH COUNTRY'S CONSTRAINTS.

-- NOTE AND APPROVE A NEW GROWTH SCENARIO PROVIDING AN INTERNALLY CONSISTENT AND DESIRABLE GROWTH PATH TO 1985.

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(B) IN THE TRADE/INVESTMENT/STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AREA

-- RENEW THE TRADE PLEDGE WITH POSSIBLY SOME
UPDATING OF PREAMBULARY LANGUAGE AND COMMENTS
TO BE VETTED BY THE TRADE COMMITTEE AND XCSS;

-- URGE A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE MTN;

-- RECOGNIZE AND ENDORSE FURTHER WORK ON STRUCTURAL
ADJUSTMENT ISSUES AND THE PROBLEM OF INCREASING
GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN ECONOMIES OF MEMBER
COUNTRIES WITH RIGIDIFYING AND GROWTH-HAMPERING
EFFECTS. (VAN LENNEP WOULD LIKE TO REACH
AGREEMENT ON A POLITICAL PLEDGE TO LIMIT SUCH
INTERVENTIONS AND TO PLACE IT IN THE CONTEXT OF
THE COORDINATED GROWTH STRATEGY. THAT IS, HE
BELIEVES COUNTRIES WILL BE AMENABLE TO SUCH A
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PLEDGE ONLY IF THEY HAVE SOME ASSURANCE THAT THE
ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT WILL IMPROVE. WE BELIEVE
THIS AREA DESERVES ATTENTION AT THE MINISTERIAL,
BUT THE CONCEPT OF A "PLEDGE" SEEMS OVERLY
AMBITIOUS AT THIS POINT.)

-- BETTER INSIGHT ON APPROPRIATE POLICIES TO
ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT AND IDENTIFY SECTORS,
NOTABLY ENERGY, WHERE SPECIAL ENCOURAGEMENT
MAY BE APPROPRIATE.

(C) NORTH/SOUTH

-- TAKE STOCK OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREAS OF
DEBT AND COMMON FUND AND THE FIRST EXPERIENCE
WITH THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE, USING THE
COMMUNIQUE TO STRIKE APPROPRIATE POSTURE
VIS-A-VIS LDC'S.

-- CHARGE THE ORGANIZATION WITH WORKING OUT A
STRATEGY FOR THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE WITH

EMPHASIS ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS BUILDING ON
DAC'S EFFORTS IN THIS AREA AND DIFFERENTIATING
AMONG VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF LDC'S, BUILDING
ON THE PROGRESS OF THE STUDY BY PROFESSOR JOLLY
TO BE VETTED BY XCSS.

-- VAN LENNEP WOULD LIKE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING
TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC VULNERABILITY AREAS SUCH
AS ENERGY, COMMODITIES, FOOD AS PROBLEMS
OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY RATHER
THAN ISSUES OF NORTH/SOUTH CONTENTION. (THIS
SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH THE U.S. APPROACH TO THE
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UN OVERVIEW MECHANISM. THE MISSION WOULD ARGUE
THAT TRADE PROTECTIONISM AND FINANCE SHOULD BE
ADDED TO THE LIST.)

(D) EAST-WEST

-- WHILE WE DO NOT THINK THIS AREA WILL BE RIPE
FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL
FOR THE SECRETARY TO COMMEND THE ORGANIZATION'S
WORK TO DATE AND POSSIBLY IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL
SELECTED AREAS FOR FURTHER STUDY.

III. IMPROVEMENT IN OECD STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

14. IN ADDITION TO THE MAJOR THRUSTS OF POLICIES
DESCRIBED ABOVE, THE MISSION HAS GIVEN AND WILL CONTINUE
TO GIVE ATTENTION TO MAKING THE OECD A MORE EFFECTIVE
AND RESPONSIVE POLICY INSTRUMENT.

IN THIS OECD WORK YEAR, WE SUCCEEDED IN:

-- HELPING WORK OUT A MORE EFFECTIVE FORMAT FOR
HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS ENCOURAGING FEWER AND SHORTER
FORMAL PRESENTATION AND MUCH MORE CROSS-TABLE
DISCUSSION. FIRST UTILIZED UNDER THE SKILLFUL
CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY MARSHALL AT THE YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE, THIS FORMAT HAS BEEN
EMPLOYED SUCCESSFULLY AT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS

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MEETING TO THE SATISFACTION OF SECRETARY
BERGLAND AND IN OTHER HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS
SUCH AS XCSS AND EPC.

-- ACHIEVING MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMAL
RESTRICTED GROUPS OF KEY COUNTRIES AND ESTABLISH-
ED THAT THESE BODIES, NOTABLY THE XCSS AND EPC
BUREAU, COULD MEET APART FROM THE PLENARY
COMMITTEES WITH WHICH THEY ARE ASSOCIATED.

-- INCREASING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN VISITING USG
POLICY-MAKERS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND THEIR
OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND IN
DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER KEY COUNTRIES, IN A
MANNER WHICH CONTRIBUTED MATERIALLY TO THE
PURSUITS OF U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THIS
FORUM.

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-- USING THE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET
EXERCISE TO ASSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND STAFFING
FOR ALL MINISTERIAL AND UNITED STATES
INITIATIVES BY SHIFTING RESOURCES FROM
LOWER PRIORITY AREAS THUS MAINTAINING THE

ORGANIZATION'S OVERALL BUDGET IN REAL TERMS
AT ABOUT THE LEVEL OF PREVIOUS YEARS.

15. OUR EFFORTS IN THE FUTURE WILL CONTINUE TO BE
AIMED IN THESE DIRECTIONS. IN THE PERIOD AHEAD WE
SHOULD USE THE STRENGTHS OF THE OECD TO DRAW INTO
USEFUL ECONOMIC POLICY DISCUSSION ON SELECTED ISSUES
CERTAIN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES INCLUDING SOME OF THE
MORE ADVANCED LDC'S, INCLUDING SELECTED OPEC COUNTRIES.
WE WILL ALSO FOLLOW UP THE SUGGESTION MADE TO VAN LENNEP
BY THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR GOVERNMENT THAT HE UNDER-
TAKE PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH CEMA AND OPEC GOVERNMENTS.
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